THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Continuing efforts towards widening of tax base are a priority area for the Government. A number of changes in law are brought out in every budget with this end in view. Further changes in law, if any in this regard, will be considered during the annual budgetary exercise.

Showcause Notice to M/s. Seagram Mfg. Limited

1555. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1005 given in the Rajya Sabha on 31st July, 2001 and state:

(a) what is the outcome of the show cause notice demanding Rs. 37.96 crores as customs duty issued to M/s. Seagram Mfg. Ltd. on 19th December, 2000;

(b) whether another showcause notice for evasion of customs duty amounting to Rs. 12 crores for the period from July 2000 to June, 2001 has also been issued;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the progress so far made in regard to the prosecution complaint launched against the company and its officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The adjudication process in respect of showcause notice demanding customs duty amounting to Rs. 37.96 crores issued to M/s. Seagram Mfg. (Ltd. on 19.12.2000 is in progress.

(b) and (c) Another showcause notice for evasion of customs duty amounting to Rs. 12.08 crores (approx.) for the period from July, 2000 to May, 2001 by M/s. Seagram Mfg. Ltd. has been issued, which is pending adjudication.

(d) In pursuance of direction of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in a writ petition filed by M/s. Seagram Mfg. Ltd. against the prosecution complaint filed by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence against the company and its 4 officials, the accused appeared before the Hon'ble ACMM, New Delhi on 18.10.2001 and were granted interim bail by the Hon'ble ACMM. The case again came up for hearing before the Hon'ble ACMM on 28.11.2001, but was adjourned for 15.12.2001.